

Octavia Hill and Canon Barnett were closely associated at one time, although the Barnetts broke away, definitely, in 1886, when it became clear to them that neither honesty nor thrift could save the poor from poverty only organised action by the whole community of which they were a part. All this made a stimulating atmosphere Beatrice was not satisfied however, either by discussion or by reading, determined to see for herself, she first did some visiting in Soho, and then took up the rent collecting her sister Kate laid down on her marriage. In 1885 she became, with Miss Ella Pycroft, jointly responsible for a block of working-class tenements known as Katharine Buildings, managed by Miss Octavia Hill for a group of philanthropists who had undertaken the difficult task of providing new housing for the dockers and others displaced by the slum clearance activities, near St Katharine's Dock, of the Metropolitan Board of Works. It was a difficult structure, in which

"all amenity, some would say all decency, had been sacrificed, to the two requirements of relatively low rents and physically sanitary buildings."

She worked extremely hard and conscientiously and with the keenest observations, at the end of a year's steady toil her conclusion was that, "These buildings are an utter failure."

This was in November* on November 6th, the day on which London polled in the General Election of 1885,

Mr Potter, who had gone out to vote, was
struck down
by paralysis He had to withdraw not only
from business
but from all social intercourse Rent
collecting, every-
thing but care for her father, had to be
abandoned He
had to be nursed and tended, his affairs had to
be attended
to So soon as he was able to be moved, she
took him
down to Bournemouth